



**STATE OF WASHINGTON  
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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August 4, 2020

Sent electronically to Norm Smith at [normsmith307@gmail.com](mailto:normsmith307@gmail.com)

Subject: Complaint regarding Devin Beach, PDC Case 72364

Dear Mr. Smith:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on June 22, 2020. Your complaint alleged that Devin Beach, a candidate for the County Commissioner (Position 1) for Pend Oreille County, may have violated RCW 42.17A.240 and WAC 390-16-115 for failure to maintain contributor address records.

The PDC staff reviewed the allegations listed in the complaint to determine whether a formal investigation or enforcement action is warranted. Staff reviewed all attachments submitted with the complaint, the statute, rules, and the July 6, 2020 and July 22, 2020 responses from Devin Beach and attorney Martin Rowland on behalf of Devin Beach, respectively.

Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- On March 14, 2020, Devin Beach filed a Candidate Registration (C-1 report) declaring his candidacy for County Commissioner (Position 1) for the County of Pend Oreille in 2020, selecting the Full Reporting Option.
- On April 9, 2020, Devin Beach filed an amended Candidate Registration (C-1 report) and changed from the Full Reporting Option to Mini Reporting Option.

*Alleged failure to maintain contributor address records in the 2020 election year (RCW 42.17A.240 and WAC 390-16-115).*

- The law requires that anyone who donates monetary and in-kind contributions totaling more than \$25 over the course of a campaign must be identified by name and full address.
- On June 21, 2020, you, Norm Smith, made a monetary contribution to Mr. Beach's Campaign for \$25.01. In your complaint to the PDC, you attached screenshots showing the

contribution amount of \$25.01 paid by a credit card and a PayPal receipt of Mr. Beach's website showing the transaction ID number.

- On July 3, 2020, you sent supplemental information to the PDC with a copy of a bank deposit slip showing a \$25.81 deposit/donation in Mr. Beach's Campaign account at the Washington branch of the Spokane Teachers Credit Union (STCU) by an unknown individual. In your email to the PDC, you stated, "On July 1, 2020, a person visited the Newport, WA branch of Spokane Teachers Credit Union (STCU) and made a donation of \$25.81 in Mr. Beach's Campaign Account (Beach 2020, account ending in 0819). The Contribution did not include the contributor's full name or full address as required by PDC regulations. For the record, I was NOT the person making the contribution, nor was I present at that time. Anyone who would request to review Mr. Beach's Campaign Books of Account, would not be able to determine the full names or full addresses of those who had contributed more than \$25.00."
- In his first response received on July 6, 2020, Mr. Devin stated: "I would like to inform the PDC of some real shenanigans going on in the elections for Pend Oreille County. I've been super busy and over the last couple of weeks a very big supporter of my opponent (John Gentle a county employee of the assessors office) friend named Norm Smith and a lady named Loanne Odell basically took advantage of my new website I was starting. We had a few kinks getting it started and while trying to set up my site we missed some important links. Unfortunately, his supporters took full advantage and made three contributions to me. One of \$25.01 the second for \$25.02 and the third of \$25.01 (All returned). I do have their addresses."
- On July 22, 2020, the PDC received a second response on behalf of Mr. Beach, by way of attorney Milton Rowland, stating, "Mr. Beach is being targeted, with knowing falsity, by a few people (some of them public servants also) who have intentionally concealed their names and contributions so as to manufacture a false claim against Mr. Beach. The people who have acted and whom we can identify are Christian Meador and Norm Smith. Between them, Messrs. Meador and Smith have concealed their identities while making contributions of \$25.01, \$25.02 and \$25.81, over the past three weeks or so, to Mr. Beach's Campaign. Then to compound their atrocious misconduct and out of an apparent misapprehension of the law, Meador and Smith falsely reported to the Commission that Mr. Beach violated the law by accepting anonymous campaign contributions. The actions of Meador and Smith went far beyond that. It is unlawful for anyone to conceal their identity in conjunction with a campaign contribution. RCW 42.17A.435. We have videotape from Spokane Teachers Credit Union showing Mr. Meador doing exactly that. This is both malfeasance and misfeasance in office, subjecting Mr. Meador to a recall petition, and it is a violation of our Blue Sky laws. The video has been turned over to the authorities."

Even though Mr. Beach's PayPal account accepted and processed the \$25.01 contribution from you, he stated in his response that he had your address. Mr. Beach switched from the Full Reporting Option to Mini Reporting Option on April 9, 2020, two months before this complaint was filed.

Regarding the second anonymous contribution deposited in Mr. Beach's account on July 1, 2020, Mr. Beach can accept up to \$300 in anonymous campaign contributions. Thus, even had he knowingly received and accepted those funds (which he did not), he would not be in violation of the law.

Based on these findings staff has determined that, in this instance, the evidence does not support a finding of a violation warranting further investigation or enforcement action in this matter.

Based on this information, the PDC staff finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Erick Agina at (360) 586-2869, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at [pdc@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:pdc@pdc.wa.gov)

Sincerely,

Endorsed by:

s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Erick Agina  
PDC Compliance Officer

s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Lavalley, Executive Director

cc: Devin Beach

